



217/782-5562

July 29, 1991

Mayor Michael King  
Cahokia Village Hall  
103 Main  
Cahokia, Illinois 62206

Dear Mayor King,

I am writing in response to your request for a follow up letter to our conversation of Wednesday afternoon, July 17. During that conversation, Paul Takacs and I discussed the results of our March sampling event in Cahokia with yourself and the Village Clerk, Jesse Brown. A summary of those results and our conversation follows.

Six sediment samples were taken in Dead Creek from Jerome Ave., down to the mouth of the creek at the Old Prairie du Pont. In addition soil and/or water samples were also taken from several private yards and wells. Private property owners will be informed of their sample results shortly.

Although for the most part we found what we had expected based on previous sampling results, we also found one significant anomaly. Approximately 60 parts per million (or 60,000 parts per billion) of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were detected in the sediment sample taken from the creek at 3809 White Street. Other chemicals of concern in this sample include certain heavy metals and semi-volatile compounds called polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons. This sample was the only one contaminated to this degree.

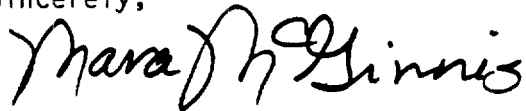
During our conversation, we discussed the potential for adverse health effects only after long term exposures to these sediments. The Agency's concern is for children who play in the creek during the summer months and may ingest sediments. PCBs, heavy metals and many PNAs bind to the soil and at these concentrations would be expected to pose only a very minor risk to people who come into dermal contact with them. I have enclosed several chemical information sheets which discuss these contaminants in greater detail.

Paul Takacs has written to U.S.EPA and requested they follow up on this sampling information. Our goal is to determine the extent of the contamination and to have the area fenced as an added safety precaution, as soon as funds can be found. Unfortunately the Illinois EPA has no money so we must look to the federal government to take action. I have enclosed our letter to the U.S.EPA for your review.

Meanwhile to avoid the risk of children consuming any of the contaminated soil, I recommend that parents keep their children out of the creek.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call me or Paul Takacs at 217/782-6760.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mara McGinnis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mara" and last name "McGinnis" clearly legible.

Mara McGinnis  
Community Relations Coordinator, IEPA

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